

# Willingness to learn, accept greater responsibilities motivate newly appointed garrison deputy commander

Story by  
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“Keeping an open mind and having the willingness to learn go a long way,” said Tim McNamara after assuming the position of the new deputy to the garrison commander May 3.

McNamara, who served as the director of the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment for 10 years, described aspiring to become the deputy to the garrison commander as a “natural progression.”

“I had expressed interest years ago on expanding my experiences,” McNamara said. “I confirmed with Mr. [Joseph] Craten [the previous deputy] regarding other possible assignments and opportunities to prepare me for other jobs. I can’t say a lot grew out of that



Photo courtesy of TIM MCNAMARA  
*Tim McNamara, deputy to the garrison commander, left, uses the ‘jaws of life’ during training at the University of Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute in the fall of 2006. Command Sgt. Maj. Elvis Irby and Col. John T. Wright assist.*

other than my willingness to serve in a greater capacity.”

When Craten retired, he and Col. John T. Wright, garrison and deputy installation commander, asked McNamara if he would be interested in serving as acting deputy. In addition, McNamara entered a program recommended by Installation Management Command Executive Development Assignment Program and applied for consideration.

After two days of working as acting deputy, Phil Sakowitz, executive director of the IMCOM, offered McNamara the job permanently, and he accepted.

Serving as deputy to the garrison commander has both

challenges and rewards, McNamara said.

“These challenges are due to the transitions APG is experiencing such as base realignment and closure and NSPS,” he said.

McNamara said that he is working with the garrison team to prepare for BRAC construction projects, the care of departing organizations and ensuring the success of the incoming organizations.

He said another challenge is “reorganizing the organization to meet headquarter’s expectations, which is balancing all the demands of those we serve.”

“There’s a lot going on, and people are working full tilt to try accomplish all that and help be part of the team that sets the vision, gives direction and prepares us to meet all those challenges. That is what is most rewarding about it,” he said.

McNamara discussed what his goals were to meet the

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